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# Politics Out For Nixon, Ziegler Says

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Richard M. Nixon blames nobody but himself for the scandal that brought about his resignation, plans no political comeback, and "would never accept an ambassadorial post," his former press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said yesterday.

In a televised interview, Ziegler also said Nixon telephoned the White House last weekend to tell President Ford he has full confidence in him and never doubted his ability to handle the job.

The issue of Nixon's confidence in Mr. Ford as Vice President surfaced last Friday when former White House aide Charles W. Colson said Nixon expressed doubts to him about Mr. Ford's potential abilities as a President, and described Mr. Ford as a slow starter who "would take two years to get up to speed."

"President Ford not only has the respect of former President Nixon," Ziegler said, "but also he feels that President Ford has taken hold of the office."

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and others have raised the possibility of Nixon's eventual return to Republican politics or diplomatic affairs. In a taped interview in San Clemente, Calif., with Jim Hartz on the NBC "Today" program (WRC), Zeigler declared:

"He is not . . . planning a political comeback. The only comeback he is planning now is to regain his health so that he can begin work on his memoirs. I have never heard him talk about wanting to be an ambassador. I know he will never become an ambassador. I know he would never accept an ambassadorial post. He said that to me."

Ziegler said Nixon "has to live with" the knowledge that his own actions brought about his downfall.

The former press aide said Nixon "certainly understands that it was the acts taken by his administration that led to his resignation. He does not blame anyone for that. He has to live with it."

On other issues, Ziegler said:

- The Nixon White House "conducted probably the worst public relations or press program in the history of the United States in the way we handled Watergate . . . we did a very bad job of that."
- He personally "made mistakes as press secretary . . . but a press secretary is only as good as his source of information."
- Nixon is on a "very tight budget. If he had to turn only to his own resources to pay for the current and anticipated legal costs he would be in a very serious financial position."
- About $100,000 has been collected so far for Nixon's legal defense fund. He has $225,000 in legal fees facing him.
- Mr. Ford's decision to pardon Nixon was "an important act of compassion" and was also in "the national good."